

US\$N 09/718,803
Response and Amendment

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-10 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 3- 5, 7, and 9 are currently amended. Basis for these amendments to the claims is found in the specification and therefore no new matter is presented. Claims 2 and 8 are canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 3-7, and 9-10 are currently pending. Entry of the amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly *prima facie* obvious over the published PCT application WO 98/42840. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

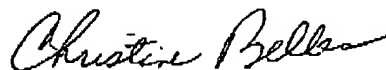
Claims 1 and 7 have now been amended to recite the limitations of claims 2 and 8 respectively. Applicants submit that, based on the amendments to these claims, the obviousness rejection has been overcome, since the Examiner previously determined that claims 2-6 and 8-10 were deemed to distinguish over this reference (paper 15, page 4). Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that pending claims 1, 3-7, and 9-10 be found allowable.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants request that the amendments to the claims shown above be entered, and that on the basis of these amendments and the arguments presented above that the rejection of claims 1 and 7 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1, 3-7, and 9-10 be found allowable. Applicants invite the Examiner to call at the number below if it would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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